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Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-11056-US03

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-60. (Canceled)

Claim 61.(Currently Amended) An expandable tubular endoluminal prosthesis for maintaining the patency of a bodily vessel, the prosthesis having a flow path therethrough, the prosthesis stent having a longitudinal axis and a first end and a second end, the stent having struts which in a cross-section perpendicular to the flowpath have with a first portion, a second portion, and a middle portion thicker portions with a narrower portion therebetween and have a greater width than thickness therebetween, the first portion located further from the longitudinal axis than the second portion, the middle portion being narrower than the first portion and the second portion in cross-section.

Claims 62-63. (Canceled)

Claim 64. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 61, wherein said struts have a serpentine configuration.

Claim 65. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis and a first end and a second end, the stent comprising an open-ended elongate tube having a generally circumferential wall, there being a multiplicity of interconnected curvilinear struts formed in the wall of said tube, the struts disposed about a multiplicity of through-holes in said wall, each of said struts having a region with a first portion, a second portion, and a middle portion therebetween, the first portion located further from the longitudinal axis than the second portion, the middle portion being narrower than the first portion and the second portion in cross section, in a cross-section perpendicular to the flowpath, thicker portions with a narrower portion therebetween and a greater width than thickness.

Claim 66-67. (Canceled)

Claim 68. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 65, wherein said struts are serpentine.

Claim 69.(Previously presented) The stent of claim 61 comprising a plurality of serpentine bands, each of the serpentine bands being a continuous, closed structure which extends about the circumference of the stent.

Claim 70. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 69 wherein at least some of the serpentine bands extending about the circumference of the stent abut one another.

Claim 71. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 70 wherein some adjacent serpentine

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bands are connected to one another via a connector which extends between the adjacent serpentine bands.

Claim 72. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 69 having a taper.

Claim 73. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 61 having a taper.

Claim 74. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 72 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

Claim 75. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 73 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

Claim 76. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 65 ~~further comprising~~ wherein the struts are arranged in a plurality of serpentine bands, each of the serpentine bands being a continuous, closed structure which extends about the circumference of the stent.

Claim 77. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 76 wherein at least some of the serpentine bands extending about the circumference of the stent abut one another.

Claim 78. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 77 wherein some adjacent serpentine bands are connected to one another via a connector which extends between the adjacent serpentine bands.

Claim 79. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 76 having a taper.

Claim 80. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 65 having a taper.

Claim 81. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 79 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

Claim 82. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 80 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

Claim 83. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:
providing a tube having a wall;
removing material from the wall of the tube so as to form a plurality of struts in the wall,
the struts having an oval cross-section.

Claim 84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 83 wherein the struts are arranged in serpentine configurations.

Claim 85. (Previously Presented) An unexpanded stent having a longitudinal axis and formed from an open-ended tube having a first end and a second end and a midpoint therebetween, the

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tube having a wall with a multiplicity of holes formed therethrough between the first and second ends, the tubular wall defined by a plurality of struts, the stent tapering from the midpoint to each end of the stent at a substantially constant slope in relation to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended) A stent comprising a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts having a greater width than thickness, portions of the struts having a cross-section which includes a necked region, the stent being of a tubular shape and open at both ends.

Claim 87 (Previously presented) The stent of claim 86 wherein the cross-section is rounded with a narrower midsection and thicker ends.